

**“47” Alumni Association of the Deaf, Inc.**



*105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of “47”*

**Grand opening of the renamed  
J.H.S. 47  
Vocational Education Museum  
and  
The Recognition Awards Ceremony**

Wednesday June 5, 2013  
10:00 am

at

**“47” The American Sign Language and English Lower School  
“47” The American Sign Language and English High School  
225 East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10010**

# The History of J.H.S. 47 Vocational Education Museum

As we gather today for the grand opening of the renamed J.H.S. 47 Vocational Education Museum, we are reminded of the precious time we spent in vocational education courses. Even though the days are gone when we had courses such as woodworking, sewing, cooking, typing, printing, metal art/jewelry making and art, we fondly remember them by displaying artifacts and related items. Alumni donated many of the items.

**Woodworking:** Students made a variety of woodworking projects using tools ranging from handsaws to hand planes. Some are on display as well as handmade projects such as shelving, ashtrays, boats, model houses and much more. Alumni donated all items.

**Sewing:** It was such a surprise when an old sewing machine dating back to the 1920s was discovered in the school basement. It had been there, untouched, for at least 90 years. The machine is now on display along with sewing kits and items. A tall wooden mirror stand, spinning wheel and a graduation dress are displayed near the sewing machine. Sewing classes probably began at our school in 1908, and lasted until the 1990s.

**Cooking:** Cooking utensils such as silverware, dishes, pot and pans, pitchers, measuring cups, trays, glasses, and much more are on display as well. Students learned to cook desserts, cakes, pancakes, bread, drinks and more. They even learned how to set the table properly.

**Typing:** We discovered two typewriters dating back to the 1940s, and even have accompanying typing exercise books. They are now on display. Typing students will remember copying from their typing books, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog," and

phrase that contains all 26 letters of the English alphabet. The typing classes served many of us as a useful skill in our careers.

**Printing:** There are several letterpress printing tools that were used by students to print posters, cards, ticket and graduation programs, and *The Voice* and *47 Speaks*. In the museum, a printing movable press stands next to a typesetting letter case with composing sticks. There also are wood engravings for inked printmaking blocks.

**Metal Arts/Jewelry Making:** The metal arts tool and artifact collection includes hot plates, chisels, tongs, welding, wood hammers, and the stool used by teacher Albert Feldman. Students learned to work with metals (brass, copper and silver) to create items such as jewelry, ashtrays, coasters, and more. Students also welded metal together to make it more flexible and hammered it into different shapes and designs.

**Art:** Art taught students to appreciate painting, portraiture, drawings and many other genres. In later years, students had a pottery class and used a kiln. Several items are on exhibit, ranging from paintbrushes to watercolor sets. Art continues to be taught at the school.

**Others:** Other items on display include a movie projector, a slide projector, phonographs and records.

**Eskimo Freezer Ice cream Maker Canister:** The two cream maker canisters, Eskimo Freezer Ice Cream Maker, were recently discovered in a school closet. They are in fairly good condition with rusty top frames made of cast iron and movable parts. They were used in cooking classes, where students learned how to make ice cream during the 1930s.

# Recognition Awards

## **“47” Alumni Special Honor Awards**

Given to an individual who has shown extraordinary talent and energy in being a trailblazer

**Aviance Pride**

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## **Achievement Awards**

Given to a person who has achieved extraordinary accomplishments in his or her profession

**David Thacker Bowell**

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## **Award of Appreciation**

Given to an individual who has demonstrated interest and performed work in enhancing the education of Deaf students

**Douglas Ridloff**

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## **Dedication Award**

Given to an individual who has been dedicated to working closely with the school and/or the Deaf Community

**Mary Grace Gallagher**

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## **Former Staff Recognition Award**

Given to a former staff person who was a diligent worker

**Anthony Adamo**

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## **PTA Parent Award**

Given to a PTA parent who has taken initiative in helping the school reach its potential

**PS 347 PTA President Jessica Cortes**

**Special Dedication to “47” Award**

Given to a person devoted to %7+Alumni activities

**Rolf Olsen**



**Special Extraordinary Dedication Service Award**

Given to an individual who has shown outstanding and steadfast work for %7+Alumni

**Kenneth Mortensen**



**Special Thank You Award**

Given to an individual who has been instrumental in keeping the school as a better place to be

**Custodian Brian Hammel**

**Janitor Victor Zuniga**

**Agent Michelle Faulker**

**Agent Marie Moise**

**Principal Keane, Assistant Principal Solomon-Berger, and the staff of PS 138**



**Staff Recognition Award**

Given to a staff member who has demonstrated interest and performed work in educating %7+ students

**Iris Masarsky**

**Linda Zwerin**

**Patricia Molloy**

# School's History

Since 1908, the school's name has changed several times, starting with P.S. 47 School for the Deaf. The number 47 is symbolic of the first 47 students. The name was then changed to J.H.S. 47 School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and then changed again to J47. Located on 225 East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in New York City, the school served both elementary and middle school departments within the school with one principal and two assistant principals.

On February 2, 2002, the school was renamed The American Sign Language and English School. Three years later on February 1, 2005, New York City Department of Education Chancellor Joel Klein announced his decision to convert the lower and secondary programs into two schools, now called The American Sign Language and English Lower School and The American Sign Language and English Secondary School. The primary reasons for having two schools include better budget control and improved teaching methods.

The elementary school, from preschool through the fifth grade and gradually the middle school, from sixth through eighth grade, became a new school, and the high school, from ninth grade through twelfth grade, remained the same. The schools are general education programs serving Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Children of Deaf Adults, Special Education, and Hearing students in an American Sign Language and English dual language environment under the auspices of Region 9.

Each school has its own principal, activities, athletics, administrators, balanced literacy program, budget, parent coordinator, parent-teacher association, related services, school leadership team, Union Federation of Teachers (UFT) chapter leader, and library.

The Alumni Association of the Deaf cherishes its alma mater and has worked closely with the school ever since its origin. We celebrated our beloved School's 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and we look forward to continuing our relationships with the school, the neighborhood, and the Deaf and Hearing community as a whole.

# **Thank You**

## **“47” Alumni Coordinator**

Dorothy Cohler

## **“47” Alumni Association of the Deaf, Inc.**

President Cheryl Mortensen, Officers and Board Members

## **“47” Alumni Archivist**

Steven Fertik

## **“47” Alumni Assistant Archivist**

William Newman

## **Photographer/Videotaper**

William Newman and Luba Olsen

## **“47” Alumni Volunteers**

Maria Laina, Maria Maisonet, George Rivera Jr  
Soldely Rodriquez

## **The Office of Sign Language Interpreting Services**

Cathy Markland and Jina Porter

## **Administrators of**

### **“47” The American Sign Language and English Lower School**

Principal Dave Thacker Howell

Assistant Principal Maryanne Fisher

and

### **“47” The American Sign Language and English High School**

Principal Watfa Shama

Assistant Principal Liz Brown

## **New York City Department of Education**

Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott

## **Luncheon**

**All are invited to a luncheon in Room 212**

**“47” Alumni Association of the Deaf, Inc.  
2012 -2013**

**Officers**

President . Cheryl Mortensen 62  
Vice President . Sarita Laina 62  
Secretary . Dorothy Cohler 57  
Treasurer . Sara Sue Penn 61

**The Board**

Christopher Barlow (left 65)  
Steven Fertik 69  
Joel Goldfarb 69  
Jacob Horowitz 62  
Betty Kasher 65  
Leila LeBovic 66  
Kenneth Mortensen (left 65)  
William Newman 69  
Rolf Olsen 69

**Logo Design**

John Garbera 63

**Honorary Board Members**

**In honorarium**

Evelyn Gamsu 67

**In memoriam**

Natalie (Drachman) Aranow Altsitzer 61  
Herman Barrett (left 65)  
Marvin Knopfler 41  
Dorothy (Finkelstein) Pakula 42  
Robert H. Penn 68  
Emily (Levenson) Siegel 63  
Jewelle (Abramson) Weiner 64

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